



TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

May 26, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners,

Whether as a private citizen, state legislator, lieutenant governor, or now as the governor of the State of Iowa, I have worked on rural economic development issues for the majority of my professional life. Today, as with most areas of the country, rural America is undergoing significant and, I believe, enduring economic changes. In these communities, the expansion of wireless broadband access is a central component of successful economic development and will, in many respects, determine whether small towns are able to attract and keep businesses in the coming years.

Recently, I read that 2013 may be the first year where the number of people accessing the Internet through smart phones exceeds the number accessing it via a desktop or notebook PC. The public is driving this shift and, as a result, businesses large and small are building strategies around the accessibility of wireless technology. It will be far more challenging, if not impossible, for communities without adequate wireless access to attract new businesses and more jobs in the future. The long-term implications of that trend have the potential to be devastating to the thousands of small communities in Iowa and around the country.

With all this in mind, I am writing to you today because I believe the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile, under your review, is a critical step in bringing enhanced wireless connectivity and providing greater opportunities to all our small towns and cities. The merger will bring 4G LTE technology to 55 million more Americans than under the original plan, and to more areas of the country than without the merger.

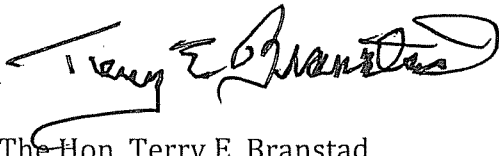
With more and higher-quality wireless options, Iowa will be able to create additional business opportunities, provide better educational opportunities, and more accessible health care options for thousands of Iowans.

Moreover, as governor, I am also mindful of how critical wireless technology is to public safety. The state of Iowa has witnessed a number of severe weather

emergencies in recent years, including the devastating floods in eastern Iowa in 2008. The ability of citizens to communicate and contact first responders and other safety officials is more and more dependent on effective digital technology. The merger will strengthen the wireless network, which in turn will help consumers stay connected

As we look to the future, it's clear that broadband wireless technology will play a bigger role in making the government more accessible to our citizens, enhancing opportunities for private business, and improving the day-to-day lives of the general public. Now is the time to make the necessary investments to ensure that all Americans can see the benefits of these advances. I urge you to approve the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile to help drive innovation and provide valuable services to all communities particularly those that historically have been underserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Branstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Hon. Terry E. Branstad  
Governor of the State of Iowa

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell